



# *The Blurb*



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club  
66 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2015*

Volume 66 Number 9

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

September 2015

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***The Board meets on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, The General Membership Meeting  
Is on the 9<sup>th</sup>***

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**Inside - Barry K3EUI has a quiz about digital modes**

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*Jam packed September!  
Labor Day  
Scholarship Winner  
Fall Begins  
Directory Update Message*

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**Bryan Hoch, N3VJE**

It is with extreme sadness to inform you of the passing Saturday morning August 29 of Bryan Hoch, N3VJE, the son of Steve, WU3I.

Steve and his family asked me to pass along their sincere thank you to all for their prayers and well wishes.

Ed, KB3IV

***See a message from Steve on page 7***

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <b>Copying and quoting</b> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor:  <b>Rick DeVigiliis ND3B@ARRL.net</b></p> <p><b>Subscriptions</b> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</b></p> <p><b>Submissions deadline:</b> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p><b>Directors:</b></p> <p><b>N3QV(15)</b>  <b>W3RM(15)</b>  <b>K3HWG(15)</b>  <b>WA3KIO(16)</b>  <b>KB2ERL(16)</b>  <b>ND3B(16)</b>  <b>W3STW(A)</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 404 Warminster, PA 18974</b>  <a href="http://www.phil-mont.org">http://www.phil-mont.org</a>          Website: Eric N3QV &amp; Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p><b>For club information:</b> Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>
		<p><b>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Meter/ 70cm Net</b>..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater</li> <li>• <b>10-on-10 Net</b> ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)</li> <li>• <b>75 meter Net</b> ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB</li> <li>• <b>ARES</b> at 2100L on the W3QV repeater</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committees</b></p> <p>Blurb folding: KB3IV &amp; N3GLU          Directory: KB3IV          Field Day: KC2PMW          Fusion Coord: NC3U</p>	<p>Internet: N3QV &amp; KC2PMW          Membership: K3HWG          Net Control: KB3IV</p>	<p>Program: W3AOK          Publicity: W3RM          Refreshments: W3AOK          Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: W3RM          Sunshine: N3GLU          VE Program: NS3K          Welcome: N3UBY          Youth: KC2PMW</p>

***All visitors are welcome!***

The club meets at 7:00 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at Giant Supermarket, 315 York Rd, Willow Grove, PA  
 Maps and directions are available at [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org).

**License Examinations** are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

**Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or [jmccloskey@msn.com](mailto:jmccloskey@msn.com) for the latest information.

**Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System**

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

**147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz**

Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R

**W3AA Trustee: WU3I**

**W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV**

***The Officers***

**President: WA3GM Greg Malone [wa3gm@yahoo.com](mailto:wa3gm@yahoo.com)**

**Vice President: W3AOK Bill Popovic [w3aok@verizon.net](mailto:w3aok@verizon.net)**

**Treas: KB3IV Ed Masarsky [kb3iv@comcast.net](mailto:kb3iv@comcast.net)**

**Secretary: WU3I Steve Hoch [wu3i@arrl.net](mailto:wu3i@arrl.net)**

## *The Prez Sez ...*



Hello Phil-Mont

Well it's mid August and by the time you read this the summer of 2015 will be in the log.

We just returned home from our 2 week vacation in N. Wildwood NJ where we had great weather for the entire two weeks. Probably the best two weeks I ever spent down the shore.

I was able to work remote from the vacation spot without any problems. Not a lot of DX out there now but the digital modes, PSK, JT65, JT9, all played well. Just a great feeling to watch the sun come up over the ocean ... Can't wait until February & March get here and our FL venture continues but more on that later.

The club received a thank you letter from Bernie Socha KB3YWW who is the winner of the Claude H. Haring Scholarship Award this year. Bernie is a third year student at Wilkes University with a double major in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering and a minor in physics.

In his spare time he works 20, 40 and 10 meters from his Yaesu FT-890 with Dipoles for each band. He was also instrumental in reviving the Wilkes University Club Station.

Bernie's full bio should appear elsewhere in this edition of the Blur.

Last Tuesday I attended a presentation, as did some other Phil-Monters, on the digital modes presented by our own Barry K3EUI and Ron NY3J at the Bucks County Emergency Center. Barry did his usual great job and the presentation was very informative.

Just a reminder we will resume our monthly meetings starting in September at the Giant in Willow Grove and we look forward to seeing everyone there. Bring a friend if you can as all are welcome to attend.

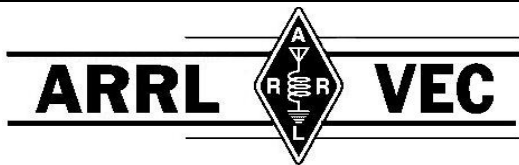
**September 9, 2015:** Remote Operations. Greg WA3GM and Steve WU3I will present a short demo on working remote when it is not practical to bring Radios and antennas on vacation, etc ...

If anyone has any suggestions for a speaker or would like to speak at one of our meetings please let any of the club officers or board members know. Your input is vital and we welcome all suggestions.

Don't forget to sign up for the Phil-Mont Yahoo Group. We currently have 40+ members. This is a good way to share ideas amongst the membership. Sal NC3U is the moderator of the group. For more info and to join the group contact Sal.

See you all at the next meeting.

*73, Greg WA3GM*



*There's a Saturday morning VE session on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the usual Thursday evening session on the 24<sup>th</sup> this month.*

*As always, many thanks to our VE team!*

### ***Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes***

#### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

01 Sol Volen - N3UBY  
02 Gregory Malone - WA3GM  
04 Eileen Livezey (XYL KC3EOO)

06 Linda Witmer (XYL W3RW)  
12 Arie Dash - KC3EXV

13 Marge Concordia (XYL WB3KAC)  
15 Bob Freer - W3YLT  
16 Robert Siegrist - KB3ZKN  
17 Vikye Swanson (XYL N3GLH)

20 Michael Taraborrelli - N3MT  
21 Susan Bogash - KB1ZNK  
Stefan Didizian - KB3VLY  
23 Eileen Kerrigan (XYL ND3B)  
John Simon - KB3SJS  
Patricia Day (XYL WA3QED)  
24 Virginia Buono (XYL WA3ADI)

#### **MEMBERSHIP STATS**

At press time P.M.R.C. has:  
109 FULL PAID MEMBERS  
11 FAMILY MEMBERS  
2 YOUTH MEMBERS  
1 HONORARY MEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*\*

#### **UPCOMING DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT**

With the October Blurb you will receive the 2015 Directory Supplement. It will contain new member information, plus corrections and additions received during the last six months. If you have any changes that you have not previously sent please do so now.

In addition, the Supplement will feature the "Electronic Mailing list" of PMRC members who have sent me their E-Mail addresses.

If you would like your cell phone listed in place of your work phone,  
Please indicate your change and the cell number, followed by (cp).

If you have changes, send your information to me (no later than 9/12 at: [kb3iv@comcast.net](mailto:kb3iv@comcast.net) or via snail mail at the address shown in your directory.

**A Digi-Quiz** *de Barry, K3EUI***TRUE or FALSE**

CW can be considered a “digital mode” when sent by machine

RTTY can be sent by changing the VFO frequency with data (FSK) or

by shifting an audio tone by 170 Hz in a sound card, feeding that into the SSB MIC jack (AFSK)

CW is really an “amplitude shifted keyed” (ASK) signal

The bandwidth of a CW signal is mostly determined by the rise and decay time of the RF envelope, typically 5 milliseconds, resulting in about a 100 Hz bandwidth for CW sent at under 30 wpm.

Olivia is a mode named after the author’s daughter.

Olivia can often print when the signals are 10dB below the noise level.

MFSK 32 is like multiple RTTY signals, but with 32 tones, the data rate is actually greater than the baud.

MFSK128 is capable of sending SMALL images.

THOR is a mode that uses “incremental frequency shift” ..

meaning the characters are determined by the changes in pitch from one tone to the next tone.

THOR is named after the author’s great-grandfather

MT63 is a mode with 64 independently phase-shifted tones which yields print even in very noisy environments

FLDIGI is a free piece of software that works well on Windows/Macs/Linux

FLMSG is a way of sending a “wrapped” file in a specific format, like a RadioGram

FLAMP is a way of breaking long files into smaller files, sending them in BLOCKS

SignalLinks are better than Rigblasters

The highest HF baud allowed is currently 300 baud, but that may change soon with new ARRL proposals to FCC

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**PMRC 2015 Scholarship  
Winner Bernie Socha KB3YWW**

My name is Bernard Socha, KB3YWW. I recently found out that I had won the Claude H. Haring award for this upcoming school year, and I wanted to thank you.

I just finished my third year of college at Wilkes University near my home in Mountain Top, PA. I am double majoring in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering with a minor in physics. People always ask me which engineering I prefer and I don’t really have an answer. Mechanical engineering is easier to visualize, and I enjoy determining the breaking points of different materials in different situations. Electrical engineering is also very interesting in how you can control currents and voltages to do what you want in a very small and cheap package. What once took large mechanical systems to control can now be done with a single IC chip, the size of your finger. Coming up in senior year we take several radio related courses for the electrical engineering degree. Modern communication systems and electricity and magnetism, where I hope to learn how to design

better antennas, than are currently commercially available.

I currently have a 10 meter wire dipole setup in the attic along with 20m and 40m dipoles in the back yard, which are new for the fall of 2014. This is connected to my Yaesu FT-890, which can push about 100 watts. So far I have talked to twenty-four states, triple that of last year, and about as many countries in North America and Europe. I have grown fond of the 15m band, and most enjoy making DX contacts. Currently I am doing well DXing to the Middle East on 20m.

Earning the scholarship has allowed me to spend a little more money on the hobby. My plans for the upcoming year include new designs of antennas that may be more directional than the dipoles I have. I often lose out on contacts against hams with fully legal power on Yagis. I hope to be one of those guys once I am done with school and moved to my own house.

It is actually a funny story on how I had earned my license. My friend had been studying the technician question pool extensively in the summer after our senior year of high school. He had called me up one day and asked if I'd be interested in taking the test with him that night. I was skeptical, but agreed. Throughout the day I read the pool several times and took online practice. I successfully earned my technician class license and got a HT later that year. I became very active on the local 2 meter nets. The next summer I was all studied up for the general and passed at our local hamfest.

When I started college I had seen that there was an amateur radio club at Wilkes at one time. Our license was about to expire, and the current club advisor wanted nothing to do with restarting the club. I decided that it was unlikely that the club could be restarted, and just did my own thing at home. This was until I heard about an adjunct professor who taught electrical engineering courses at night. He had his license and was willing to work with me to restart the club. I talked a few of my friends into signing up and I met with student government and we became a full-fledged club. The club has grown to about ten to fifteen active members. We set up with our local repeater club to have a testing night at the school. Here twelve students earned their technician license and I

successfully upgraded to extra. The club, KB3HXQ, isn't on the air yet. We have the radios, but the antennas are in rough shape. The shack also had to be moved so the coax has to be rerun. We have however had shirts made, which you will find with this letter. The club took a trip to the ARRL Centennial Convention last July, where we also toured and transmitted from W1AW.

There are many aspects of radio and everyone has their favorite. I most prefer going to hamfests and purchasing items that other people consider to be boat anchors. They are sometimes still functional and often look cooler than newer equipment so I try to work them in, plus they are cheaper. If they don't seem to function I try to figure out how they work and hopefully fix them, although this is not always the case. If not they usually become a display piece on my wall. When on the radio, I most prefer making side band DX contacts.

I am anxious to get set up with some digital modes and am practicing CW, but it's a slow go. I have passed the ARES training course and have worked some practice drills at our local nuclear power plant. I hope to continue my DXing and be a century club member by the end of the year.

Again thank you for your support of the scholarship fund and I hope to talk to you on the air some time. 73.

Bernie Socha, KB3YWW

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### *Also in September*

- 1 Hitler invaded Poland starting WWII
- 3 Uncle Sam's Birthday 1813
- 5 Cheese Pizza Day
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 12 Jesse Owens born 1913
- 13 Grandparent's Day
- 17 Constitution Signed 1787
- 19 Talk Like a Pirate Day *Arrgh matey!*
- 22 Post Office opened 1789
- 28 First Airport opened 1909

Philmont members:

My son donated his body to science in the hope someone could be saved in the future from this illness. There will be no services as he has stipulated. Many thanks from myself and my family for the large outpouring of love and well wishes.

Steve WU3I

Sorry about all the blank space on this page. I would normally fill it with something funny but I'm not in the mood after hearing this news. God Bless Bryan and the Hochs during this difficult time.

- ed.



***September at Phil-Mont***

2 Wed Board Meeting  
5 Sat VE morning session  
6 Sun NC3U  
7 Mon Labor Day  
9 Wed Member Meeting  
11 Mon WTC terrorist attack NYC 2001  
13 Sun K3EUI  
Rosh Hashanah  
20 Sun KB3IV  
22/23 Tue/Wed Yom Kippur  
23 Fall Begins  
24 Thur VE evening session  
27 Sun K3XS

***Note the New net - 9:00PM Tuesday night on  
29.493MHz AM mode***

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and  
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

***For Sale***

***1/8" (290#) & 3/16" (380#) Dark Olive Drab  
Braided Cord · 100% Polyester/Dacron Knit  
Braided. Nice stuff! Tough and long lasting · UV  
Resistant and Low Stretch Proudly Made in the  
U.S.A.! Contact Steve WU3I at wu3i@arrl.net or  
215-605-6074***

***First Class Mail***

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*The Blurb*